

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 062559

R 061155Z JUN 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9350

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4508

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, LA, TH

SUBJECT: ROUR D'HORIZON WITH PRIME MINISTER

1. I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER TODAY, JUNE 6, FOR A LAST
TOUR D'HORIZON BEFORE LEAVING FOR WASHINGTON.

2. PRIME MINISTER, WHO APPEARED IN VERY GOOD FORM,
IMMEDIATELY OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY REFERRING TO LAST
NIGHT'S INCIDENT WITH A THAI NAVAL PATROL. ACCORDING TO
THE PRIME MINISTER, A THAI NAVAL CRAFT APPROACHED WITHIN
10 METERS OF LAO RIVER BANK. THE LAO POLICE FIRED A
WARNING VOLLEY, CRAFT LEFT BUT RETURNED WITH THREE OTHERS
HEAVILY ARMED. THERE WAS HOWEVER NO FURTHER FIRING. I
INDICATED THAT I HAD HEARD OF THIS INCIDENT BUT HOPED
THAT IT WOULD NOT OBSCURE WHAT I UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE
INTENTIONS OF NEW THAI GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS
WITH LAOS. PRIME MINISTER RETORTED, WORDS AND INTEN-
TIONS WERE FINE BUT WHAT MATTERED WERE ACTS.

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3. THE PRIME MINISTER MENTIONED HAVING READ THE REQUEST MADE TO CONGRESS FOR 142 MILLION DOLLARS OF AID FOR LAOS. HE WAS SURPRISED WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT THIS FIGURE WAS BROKEN DOWN BETWEEN 55 MILLION DOLLARS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND 90 MILLION DOLLARS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW AN ARMY AT PEACE COULD USE THIS LEVEL OF SUPPORT. I MADE CLEAR TO HIM THAT THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COMPRISED SPARE PARTS, POL, UNIFORMS, RICE, MEDICINE, ETC., AND THAT THIS FIGURE WOULD BE REVISED. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT I HAD DISCUSSED THIS PROGRAM WITH PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, FOREIGN MINISTER AND SENIOR PATHET LAO IN VIENTIANE, TO WHOM I HAD EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT SERVED AS A VERY IMPORTANT STABILIZING ELEMENT IN THIS SITUATION.

4. I INDICATED THAT THE JUNE 4 DECLARATION BY THE PATHET LAO DENOUNCING US AND THAILAND WAS NOT HELPFUL. HE WAVED MATTER ASIDE SAYING THAT PATHET LAO HAD TO MAKE PROPAGANDA. HE ASSERTED THAT STATEMENTS COMING FROM SAM NEUA WERE ACTUALLY WRITTEN BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ADVISORS TO PATHET LAO. IN FACT, HE HAD NOT EVEN READ THE DECLARATION. I LEFT HIM MY COPY AND HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD SPEAK WITH SOUPHANAVONG ABOUT TONING THINGS DOWN.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI04508
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740144-0710
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740667/aaaacfsx.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROUR D'HORIZON WITH PRIME MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, LA, TH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005